The Chicago Tribune.

VOLUME 25. CHICAGO, FRIDAY, JANUARY 5, 1872. NUMBER 150.

LEGISLATURES.

...Yesterday's Proceed-...the Illinois Gen-...l Assembly.

...nue Bill Consid-...in the House.

...tion for the Reduc-...Bona Fide Debts ...in Defeated.

...ng the Pay of Legislators ...ed to the Judiciary, ...Committee.

...to St. Louis Bridge Re-...ill in the Senate.

...erman Renominated ...Ohio Republicans.

ILLINOIS.

SENATE.

SPRINGFIELD, Jan. 4.

...Bush, Daggett, ...Huster, Jackson, Laning, Marsh, ...

...ARTER REPORT.

...ROM, from the Committee on Agri-...ted back Senate bill 26, with the ...on that the House amendments be ...

...NEW BILLS.

...DSON introduced a bill to amend ...orced statutes as relates to cost ...

...introduced a bill to increase the ...ers in Chancery in certain coun...

...BILLS PASSED.

...In relating to bridges across ...ers; read a ...ad; was, none; ...

...In regard to the sale of com-...ds for foreign grants, was read a ...ad; was, none; ...

...In regard to mortgages of real ...erly, was taken up as the ...

...In House message re-...ate bill was received ...ed to the consideration of the ...to take up the message, which was ...

...ON GRAND DUKE.

...consideration of the bill relative to ...

...The House message relating to ...ion was read, when Mr. KEEP ...resolution on various grounds.

...He wanted the State of ...to, and Russia let alone.

...Constitutional. The respect ...due Alexis, the Grand Duke, ...the Czar.

...supported the resolutions, citing ...Russia's friendship during the ...

...opposed the resolutions as ...

...In favor of the resolutions, ...release of the resolutions ...on Federal Relations. Lost, ...

...Mr. SHERMAN then moved to strike out the ...ing the resolutions, and

WHO RUNS THE MACHINE?

A Serious Misunderstanding in the Democratic Central Committee.

Refusal of Mark Sheridan, Treasurer, to Pay Money to Their Order.

How Mark Used to be Regarded by the Democracy--An Altered Estimate.

He Pronounces "All Buncombe" the Plan to Assist in the Prosecution of the Corrupt Aldermen.

He Refuses to Give In, and so is Kicked Out.

A meeting of the Democratic Central Committee was held at No. 112 West Madison street, yesterday afternoon, the Chairman, St. Clair Sutherland, presiding. There were present Messrs. S. G. Baldwin, John B. Walsh, J. A. Daniels, Redmond Sheridan, and John Garrick.

The Secretary, Mr. Garrick, read the minutes of the proceeding meeting, and a motion was made for their approval.

Redmond Sheridan said that he opposed the approval of the minutes, because the committee's action in appropriating money out of the funds of the party to assist in the prosecution of Aldermen, had been repudiated by leading Democrats as being un-Democratic.

The Chair explained that the question was only as to the correctness of the minutes.

The minutes were approved, R. Sheridan voting against them.

The Sub-Committee appointed to assist the State's Attorney in the prosecution of the charges of bribery and corruption on the part of various Aldermen, reported that the matter had been carefully weighed in their minds, and that they had consulted many of the leading Democrats, especially those who contributed to the fund in care of the Central Committee, with whose course only general approval is expressed. The Sub-Committee base all its own judgment in the selection of an Assistant Prosecuting Attorney, the choice of whom has been cordially approved of by State's Attorney Reed. Sidney Smith, Esq., has been selected as such attorney, and has already entered upon his duties, receiving a retainer of $100, for which amount the Sub-Committee has drawn upon Mark Sheridan, in accordance with the unanimous vote of Dec. 30. A full copy of these resolutions was handed to Mark Sheridan by the Secretary, but he has refused to honor the draft, attempting to set up his own judgment as to the use of the money in his hands, and refusing to recognize the authority of the Central Committee.

The Sub-Committee further report that, while the Treasurer has refused to pay the amount necessary to be drawn to fulfill their duly expressed wishes of the Central Committee, he was presented with the proper voucher, signed, as was the draft, in the name of Mark Sheridan, St. Clair Sutherland for money by him advanced for furniture for the committee-room, which amounted to $47.25. It was also reported that the Treasurer had given his check on the Fifth National Bank in favor of Mr. Sutherland, who, on presentation of the check, was informed by the bank teller that Mark Sheridan had neither account nor funds in the bank; hence the check was refused. Under the circumstances, they

Under this extraordinary state of affairs, the sub-committee suggest that, as a large amount of money has been placed in the hands of Mark Sheridan as Treasurer, subject to the order of the Committee; and as Sheridan refuses to pay the money, or even to give a check on a bank where he never had a dollar, on account of some prompt action should be taken in the premises by the Committee.

The report was signed by Messrs. Sutherland and Garrick, was accepted and placed on file, R. Sheridan voting against it.

Redmond Sheridan said that he had advised Mark Sheridan not to pay over a single cent of the money in his possession until he had investigating charges, but that at the present time he had intended to move a reconsideration of the vote. It had been said that it was an Democratic trick to hunger and thirst after money, or Democrats should not be voted away to prosecute persons for a base election to office the Democracy was unable to carry. Democrats were very stupid. WHY, I remember I asked Commissioner Chadwick, at the time, what bank Conkling's was in.

"No, sir," said Mr. Garrick, with the air of an old bird who don't propose to be caught with chaff. "Not any, sir."

Mark Sheridan then asked Chadwick about the bank, and Garrick denied having heard any such inquiry.

"Well, then," he pursued, "if I wrote Firth instead of Union, it was a mistake; and you (stern-ly, to Garrick) knew it, sir; you knew perfectly well that I meant National. What if I did say Union National Bank. Why didn't you speak of the mistake?"

Mr. Garrick replied that he had taken and presented the check in good faith, supposing that Sheridan knew what he was about. He had no right to question the matter.

"But," insisted Mark, getting red in the face, "I asked Chadwick, in your hearing, which Confectioner's bank it was."

"No, sir," said Garrick; "you asked nothing of the kind in my presence or in my hearing."

"Well, I did, or else," replied Sheridan, by this time very angry, "you knew that I was responsible for five times the amount; but you purposely selected this mistake to subsequently use it to get it into the newspapers and injure me."

Mr. Garrick denied that he was guilty of any such attempts to willfully injure Sheridan.

Mr. Garrick reminded Sheridan that he stood alone. He had simply performed his duty as Secretary of the committee.

Mark Sheridan proceeded to say that many gentlemen of high standing in the party had advised him not to honor the draft of the committee for money to which to assist in prosecuting the charges of bribery and corruption. Better men than the committee had advised how they should act in the matter.

Colonel Baldwin, "Have you a right as Treasurer, to ignore the proceedings of the Central Committee, and to refuse to pay money on their orders?"

Mr. Sheridan: "Yes, if such order is for an illegitimate purpose. Suppose the committee should order me to pay $1,000 to Jeff. Davis. I would not do it, and neither would I draw an order for this prosecution money, which is illegal and improper, and which would subject me to fine, jail, and absquatulation."

Mr. William Bellinghamer, who had arrived some minutes before, said there should be no petty haggling about the matter. Mr. Garrick certainly knew that the money of the committee was in the hands of Mr. Sheridan, and that the check was a mistake. There was no use making a fuss about the check. It had been sufficiently explained.

Mr. Garrick said that it was a great mistake if any one considered that it was a personal matter or a matter of spite with him. He had urged postponement in order that an understanding might be reached; in fact, all the members of the committee had been done in a courteous, political, business-like manner. As to the check, it had been much misunderstood. Sheridan knew that the bank had not drawn it properly, and he had suppposed it to be all right.

Just then Mr. Garrick appeared at the door and called out Mark Sheridan, in a moment both came in, Mark inquiring if there were any objections to his leaving the room.

Mr. Garrick objected, as did also Redmond Sheridan.

Nevertheless, Mr. Shirley proceeded to remark, and to make a speech to the committee, saying that he had no desire to intrude, but he did want to protest against the withholding of the money for such purposes. He hoped that the committee would reconsider their action. "For the sake of harmony, for the sake of the party funds, which were given for a specific purpose, it will hurt the party," Mr. Shirley then thanked the committee for having endorsed him, and for the opportunity to express his views, and retired.

Mark Sheridan returned to his subject. He said that he distinctly recollected asking the name of Cowbaugh's bank, but it seemed that he neglected to obtain the information. The mistake was Garrick's knew that he was absolutely using such a thing intentionally, but had used it to blacken his character, showing a malignant spirit. He felt warranted in saying he possessed spirit. He felt warranted in saying he possessed spirit. He felt warranted in saying he possessed

PARIS.

the Commissioner of Par- ...Custom of a Deputy.

...ssage of President Thiers--- ...his Threats to Resign.

...ion of Property to the ...ous Princes--New Mem- ...bers of the Assembly.

...e Proclamation of Military Law--...ion of Small Notes--Rumors as ...to a Return of the Emperor Napoleon.

From Our Special Correspondent.

PARIS, France, Dec. 16.

...ows a great fashion with us to have ...the door-posts of the front door a ...of large enamelled porcelain dogs, ...green. Invariably these two dogs, ...on their tails, looked at each other ...eyes and threatening looks, as if ...him, which, however, being move- ...ables, they were unable to do, ...ve to the very common expres- ...looking at one another like china ...as it is say, constantly and vicious- ...without biting. Which said expres- ...ably came to us from the Romans, ...before us, their stone or mosaic ...ents nothing g...

...ver that may be, this pastime of our ...ain days is exactly that of our ...in the National Assembly to-day. ...the eight days that they have been ...they have looked at one another ...ntesting eyes, growling, and ready ...ment to seize one another; but ...ot bite. Not that they do not want ...of bite. They think of Legitimists, ...Bonapartists, Republicans, Coun- ...ists all there, like envious dogs, ...ould like to throttle each other but ...

...ONS WANTED--FEMALE.

...Housework.

...WANTED--A CAPABLE ...work. Call at ...

...WANTED--A GOOD ...and cook; to a private family ...

...Dressmaking.

...WANTED--A FIRST-CLASS ...

...WANTED--BY AN EXPERI- ...ENCED ...

...WANTED--BY A MIDDLE- ...

...WANTED--BY A YOUNG ...

...WANTED--BY A BLACKSMITH ...

...Situations Wanted.

...WANTED--AS COACHMAN ...

...Miscellaneous.

...WANTED--BY A COMPE- ...

...ISES AND CARRIAGES.

...THIS MORNING AT 9 A.M. ...half his pay for a month. The ...will be printed in full in the ...

...Sunday's. This is the ...to expulsion, if he tries it again; ...to intimidate penalty but went ...compelled to bolt or master progress, and that in will help to calm ...the public mind. Who knows? ...only when it pays. This is ...and he will not be apt to try it ...

...ed by the disdainful skep- ...ic, who knew concerning those loud- ...politicians, who shout mercy and ...and who might consequently, at ...to take for models of virtue. ...ing is not to be lost in this ...all this,--but even the ...keep up the outcries a moment ...become dangerous, or even ex- ...

...ous meeting, the Chancellor and ...of Justice, Mr. Dufaure, one of our ...ers, submitted a plan for a law ...ers. The paper which had also in- ...ed that the government would ...ciate all journalists and others, ...ected this Commission in reli- ...ment's execution. It was timely ...ed, for the moment is ripe to ...ish men who could be found ...ety, if braved not only the hatred ...ons and incendiaries of the Com- ...but the ingratitude of the ...s of the families of the condemned ...ent painful of all. It was passed ...and at once, without having the least in- ...ty hearing, be has tired out all ...ers. It has been voted by 491 ...ts to 154. In this division of ...ions there, after some stormy ...they will take him at his word and ...nation, which will not do for ...ent, but which will be very ...le to many. If you do not do this or that; if you doubt ...ey will say. "Very well, ...ent." They will say, "Very ...

...ere is a hidden discord, a very ani- ...ation among by-gones between Mr. ...ier and the Princes of the House ...ans. Mr. D'Aumale and Joinville, who, ...ery well, were both Deputies to the ...a year ago, Mr. Thiers governed ...ing as exaggerated idea of the ...ce which he could put them not to ...ss, and they assert that they have ...ed however. They wanted to set ...Mr. Thiers rather unreasonably ...and hence a very animated dis- ...

...TO THE ORLEANS ...PRINCES.

...other hand, and in accordance with ...ing, or compensation, ...Thiers intends to propose a law ...has laid before the Chamb- ...for the restoration of the Orleans ...ty confiscated by the ...ree hundred and ...Third ...ing, and like most mat- ...ts, in spite of all that has been ...of all that has been ...ing statements ...which must be taken ...a through watering. ...Louis Philippe, ...the path which he had ...pursue. Presently, Napo- ...ill modern improvements. ...The wealth, and especial- ...of the Orleans family, ...like a danger and a threat. ...servers to help him in con- ...the name of the Salic law, ...family, with their many ...vainly protested. ex- ...saying that these ...property that the ...her, had no part anterior to his ...however, since they had ...the union between the ...Two Sicilies, ...FINE MARBLE FRONT HOUSE, ...Park, RINGOLD ...

...TO RENT--ROOMS.

...ROOMS ON RANDOLPH-ST. ...FRONT ROOM, KITCHEN, ...two closets at $8 U-lane ...

...ROOM IN A PRIVATE FAMI- ...Dearborn-st., ...Breakfast optional. ...

...ROOMS, OFFICES, AND ...of Washington and Monroe ...

...ROOMS WITH STEAM FOR ...Franklin-st. ...

...OFFICE TO PHYSICIANS--IN ...Inquire of Dr. HARRIS, 402 Wabash-av. ...

...OFFICE HEATED BY ...over Kendall's Bank, ...

...LIGHT, PLEASANT OFFICE ...Canal-st., also DESK ROOM ...

...GOOD FRONT OFFICE--OR ...Clerk and Desplaines. Rent ...

...ROOMS TO RENT--ROOMS.

...ROOMS ON RANDOLPH-ST. ...

...FRONT ROOM, KITCHEN, ...

...ROOM IN A PRIVATE FAMI- ...

...ROOMS, OFFICES, AND ...

...ROOMS WITH STEAM FOR ...

...OFFICE TO PHYSICIANS--IN ...

...OFFICE HEATED BY ...

...LIGHT, PLEASANT OFFICE ...

...GOOD FRONT OFFICE--OR ...

TO RENT--HOUSES.

...HOUSE ON MICHIGAN-AV., A NEW TEN-ROOM BRICK ...

...HOUSE OF 8 ROOMS AND ...

...HOUSE OF 10 ROOMS AND ...

...HOUSE OF 7 ROOMS AND ...

...HOUSE OF 8 ROOMS AND ...

...HOUSE OF 8 ROOMS AND ...

...HOUSE OF 8

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FRIDAY, JANUARY 5, 1872.

THE GOVERNMENT BUILDINGS.

An unnecessary excitement exists relating to the business of locating the Government buildings. The wildest stories are told, and find no end of believers, giving as some forcible taste of the scrimmage that would take place if they were really to be removed. One of these stories is to the effect that the Government functionaries, dissatisfied with the prices asked by the owners of property on the old Block, propose to obtain from Congress a new law to enable them to take a block in any part of the city. The result is, that persons living on Ronsen street, Chicago avenue, and Twenty-fourth street, are becoming excited, and are prepared to show that each of those localities is the geographical centre of the city, and the most eligible site for the new Government buildings.

In point of fact there is no cause for any excitement, or any apprehension that the existing law will be changed. The law provides that the Secretary of the Treasury may, first, purchase at private sale the remaining property on the old block; second, that, failing to purchase that on satisfactory terms at private sale, he shall proceed, under the law of Illinois, to obtain it by condemnation. If, by neither of these proceedings, he can obtain it "at a fair and reasonable price for the ground," he is authorized, third, to try, by either or both processes, to obtain any one of the twenty-four blocks nearest to the old site. The Secretary has thus far sought only to ascertain the price asked for the lots in the old block by the owners thereof. He has not yet exhausted even the first proceeding regarding that block, because he has not offered the owners anything for it. Failing to obtain it by purchase, he must resort to the condemnation proceeding; and, when that is exhausted, he can make offers for either of the other blocks, or institute condemnation proceedings. It will take two years to fully exhaust the authority which the Secretary now has, and it is not likely that he will ask to have that authority enlarged. One thing may certainly be assumed, that, if the old block, for any cause, shall be abandoned, one or the other of the twenty-four nearest blocks will be taken, by private purchase if possible; if not, then by legal proceedings.

There is considerable talk about rings and combinations to effect a removal of the buildings; but the Secretary of the Treasury is not a party to any such combination, if anything of the kind exists. The Secretary's wish is to obtain the old block at its actual cash value, which is easily ascertainable; but, if this is not possible at prices within reason, he will confine his selection to the block nearest to the old one which can be obtained upon the best terms and with the least difficulty. It is not likely that the Government will abandon the old block until the process of condemnation has been fully tested. Owners who demand exorbitant prices may find that a court and jury will take a more rational view of the case.

It is given out, by those interested in an enlargement of the territorial area from which a selection may be made, that there is no law under which a jury can be summoned for proceedings of condemnation. The Supreme Court of Illinois has held that the provision in the Constitution on that subject is a statute in itself, and that it cannot be defeated by the refusal or neglect of the Legislature to provide for its execution. Any attempt to change the law may prove disastrous in more ways than one. The present Chicago, engaged in a disgraceful real estate job,—an attempt to pervert the generous action of Congress to private ends; and may further result in the repeal of the appropriation for the new buildings, and the substitution of another for the mere repair and enlargement of the existing building.

In the meantime, those who apprehend a removal of the Custom House and Post Office will do well to retain their composure. When a change becomes imminent, we shall not fail to advise them of it, so that everybody may have an equal chance in the turmoil and scramble which will follow.

MR. HARLAN'S DEFENCE.

As the election of a United States Senator, to succeed Hon. James Harlan, of Iowa, approaches, the record of that gentleman, who has long been in the field as a candidate for re-election, becomes a matter of great interest to the Iowa public. It is well known that Mr. Harlan is charged quite currently with divers irregularities, said to have occurred while he was Secretary of the Interior. One of these refers to certain alleged frauds in contracts for supplying the Indians with rations and seeds; another, to the sale of the Cherokee neutral lands to the Connecticut Land Company; and another, to the irregular and extraordinary distribution of some $300,000 in presents to certain squaws, papooses, and sick Indians of the Creek and Cherokee Nations. An abstract of the report of Messrs. Foster and Webster, Commissioners appointed by Commissioner Delano to investigate these squaw frauds, was published in THE TRIBUNE about two weeks since. The tenor of this report is very strong against the policy which Mr. Harlan instituted, and to which the pension frauds are clearly traceable. It shows the man, John W. Wright, appointed by Harlan to go to the Indian Territory and work up claims against the Government, to be an unconscionable rascal, who did not scruple to forge signatures, manufacture bogus seals, suborn dishonest Indians to personate others whose signatures were needed to documents, and to take other shameful measures toward working up fraudulent claims against the Government; and, at the same time, blackmail the poor Indians into trading out their accounts with traders with whom Wright is supposed to have been in collusion.

The proceedings in this Indian pension business, so far as Secretary Harlan was concerned, appear to have been instituted in October, 1865, when Mr. Harlan's campaign for an election to his seat in the Senate was setting in. One of the first steps in these proceedings was to appoint the man Wright to the office above described, of Special Claim Agent and Attorney. Another was to order the Commissioner of Pensions to inscribe, in an extraordinary and irregular manner, upon his rolls, the names of 480 Cherokees, Creeks, and Seminoles, as entitled to pensions on account of alleged service as home guards during the war of the rebellion. The Commissioner had previously rejected all, or nearly all, of these applications as not coming within the scope of the pension laws. Added to this ground was the fact that many of the Indian home guard had also served the rebel cause during the war. If this were not enough, the fact that Secretary Harlan's list contained many "repeaters" ought to give it a very suspicious aspect. Thus we find the lamented George Scraper credited with two widows, both of whom are named Na-Kee Scraper, and one minor, of whom Sally Scraper is guardian; and it is stated by some who have gone through the full lists, prepared (as was that already referred to) by Wright, that deceased Indians are in some cases accredited with as many as eight widows apiece, all of whom are down for pensions. We have no means of knowing (nor had Secretary Harlan when he ordered the Commissioner to enroll the names for pensions) whether "Foe Nee, widow of No-co-se-co-see," and "Fiane Tohebe, widow of Tussem-ah-ochabe," were identical with "Parkie Pig Mike, widow of Pig Mike," and "Polly Tiger," the mourning relic of Wheeler Tiger. But it is at least evident that, amid the cacophonic names of such squaws as De-ta-ki-ya-ki, widow of Jose-la-the-Wood, Cha-ha-kah, widow of Lovely Mistleacher, Cha-wa-[illegible] widow of Opoonna Sir Killer, Sally Going Snake, widow of Going Snake, Betsey Potato, widow of Tom Potato, etc., etc., there is ample opportunity for the exercise of the peculiar skill in doctoring claims of which the man Wright seems to be so richly possessed. That this skill was exercised, and that it was very materially assisted by the unbridled authority given to Wright and others scarcely less unscrupulous, is made too apparent by the report of the Commissioners already referred to.

In answer to this report, and to the testimony which has been borne against him by the various Commissioners of Pensions, Senator Harlan has recently addressed a letter to the Iowa papers through General Williamson, of Des Moines, in which he excuses his appointment of Wright by explaining that he was a "recognized attorney and claim agent," and "I knew no sufficient reason for disbarring him." Again; in excuse for his defiance of law and precedent in taking those rotten claims out of the hands of the regular authorities and farming them out to two or three notorious claim agents and subordinate clerks, Mr. Harlan says:

"I was informed by the pension clerks that the evidence produced in favor of many of those claims seemed to be conclusive, and that it was sustained by the records of the War Department. If the business had proceeded in the usual mode, those sustained by this proof, in the absence of rebutting evidence, would have been allowed, the names would have been enrolled, and the pension certificate issued, as a matter of course. But, considering the relations of the Government to the Indian country, and the propriety of issuing certificates to Indians to be collected by attorneys, I thought it best to have these cases re-examined on the ground in the presence of an officer of the Department, and, where found valid, payment made to the Indians in person."

But, in his instructions to Whiting, the clerk whom he made a Pension Agent, with supreme power to pay claims without adjudication,—in fact, in contravention of the judgment of the Pension Bureau,—Mr. Harlan wrote:

"It is difficult for them to establish their claims by the addduction of evidence of the character usually required by the rules and regulations of the Department; and, in view of their commendable loyalty and pressing necessities, their ignorance, etc., etc.

—A reason directly opposite to that which he assigns in the above extract for his extraordinary proceeding. Whereas he claims now that he fitted out his corps of agents and claim-sharks for the purpose of guarding the Treasury against too many claims being proved, his instructions to those agents, etc., show that he sent them because the unfortunate Cherokees—the widows of Tom Potato, Pig Mike, *et al.*—could not get upon the rolls in sufficient numbers if subjected to the same requirements as the widows of white veterans.

Nearly simultaneously with Senator Harlan's letter comes the following kindly telegram from Washington:

The Interior Department is authority for the statement that nothing appears on its records connecting or implicating Senator Harlan with any of the frauds charged against J. W. Wright, in the payment of Indian pensions or County claims.

This ought to tell well in the approaching Iowa caucus, provided Senator and Secretary Harlan can explain to members what has become of documents "C," "D," "E," and "F," referred to in Pension Commissioner Van Aernam's report of Oct. 20, 1869,—lists of Indian claimants whom Secretary Harlan had under his wing during the time of his incumbency of the Interior Department. These lists have never been attached by some unknown agent,—hence "nothing appears upon the records," etc.

It must be confessed that the whitewashing telegram, even when added to Mr. Harlan's Williamson letter, falls far short of clearing his official skirts of the squaw pensions. It is still apparent that at least $300,000 (some authorities say $400,000) have been lost from the public treasury; that in his instrumentality in occasioning such loss, Secretary Harlan acted at least without much regard to the public interests in appointing agents shamelessly corrupt, and in overruling the decisions of the Pension Office.

ORIENTAL CIVILIZATION.

The rapid progress which the Japanese are making, in adapting themselves to the forms of a higher civilization, is one of the most astonishing events of the present century. The new departure which they have taken is so radical, indeed, that it is almost impossible to conceive of it; and, at the rate of progress in it by no means certain that we shall soon have to look to the Orient for our own ideas of civilization. No sooner did the Japanese hear of paper-money than they substituted it for their own inconvenient specie, and immediately afterwards appeared in the London markets as negotiators of a loan. Their next step was to apply the principles of political economy to finance and adopt free trade, which they will practically carry out, when their treaties are revised, by declaring void the prohibition on the export of rice. They are building a railroad hundreds of miles in length. They have adopted one system of steamboats. They have introduced tram-roads in the Empire, an improvement the feasibility of which is even now discussed in London. They have formed a society for the prevention of cruelty to animals. They have armed and clothed their soldiers in the style of the European militiary system. The Mikado himself shares the progressive ideas of his people. He has ordered that the women shall have equal opportunities for education with the men. He has commanded the Buddhist priests to cease their mummeries and go to work at mechanical pursuits. He has broken the time-honored custom of his ancestors, which provided that the sovereign should be invisible to his people, and now constantly appear in public. He has given up the national beverages and taken the politer and more civilizing champagne. Wishing to elevate his literary tastes, he is studying German for use and French for ornament, and has generously given the youngest members of the nobility opportunities for travel and study.

These changes are as rapid as they are sweeping, and denote one of the most curious social revolutions in the history of the world. It has long been the boast of Oriental civilization that it furnished the world, hundreds of years ago, with all the great discoveries of science,—the compass, printing, gunpowder, electricity, the art of navigation, &c. Since that time, however, it has stood still. Is it possible that, in the revolutions of the whirligig of time, we are going under and that the Orient is coming uppermost? That, absorbing whatever we may have accomplished, the heathen Chinee's next-door neighbor is starting off in the race of progress at a pace which will leave us out of sight, and that Mr. Darwin will once more eclipse us all with the brilliancy of his new civilization? Whatever else may be thought of him, it is certain that he is quicker in apprehension than we. While we are discussing and reasoning, he is accepting with intuitively correct judgment, and putting into practice with a marvellous power of imitation, to say the least. It will be a curious study to follow him in the new path he has marked out, and see if, after accepting our ideas and theories so readily, he has inventive powers sufficient to enable him to improve upon them and use them for his elevation above our own plane of civilization.

THE HOOSAC TUNNEL AGAIN.

The New England journals are fortunate in having one topic which has not failed to supply them with matter for discussion for several years past, and bids fair to be of service to them for some time to come. When everything else runs dry, the Hoosac Tunnel is still a fresh topic, developing new features of scientific, financial, and railroad interest. For the last three years it has kept itself out of the State Legislature; but, now that there is a pretty certain prospect that the tunnel may be completed within the time specified in the contract, it has come up again in a very interesting shape, and one which will compel legislative action, and undoubtedly result in a consolidation of the roads having an Eastern connection with it. The question is now, What shall own the tunnel when it is done, and be the toll-keeper on this great highway from the East to the West?

The question of proprietorship has been fairly opened by the Troy & Boston Road—a short line from North Adams, Mass., to Troy, and the only road at present which has a western connection with the tunnel—the controllers of which have made a formal offer to the Governor and Council to buy the tunnel, thirty years after completion, for four millions of dollars, paying the State an annual rental of $240,000, or 6 per cent on the price offered. This, reckoned with interest, would yield to the State a bout ten millions of dollars, or half what the enterprise will cost when finished. It is generally supposed in Massachusetts that this offer is made for simple self-protection. It is inevitable that the road, having eastern connections with the tunnel will consolidate, when it is completed, to block every the Troy Road would, of course, be left at the mercy of this great corporation on the other side. Their desire is to come into the consolidation on fair terms with the Fitchburg and Vermont and Massachusetts Roads, and thus head off the chance of being swallowed up by the consolidated concern in New England, or by new roads which might be built from the West leading to it. In regard to the prospects for consolidation, the *Boston Advertiser* says:

Hitherto these roads (the New England) have shown no disposition to consolidate, but the policy has seemed to be one of delay, with the hope of bettering their condition before uniting. The proposition to purchase the tunnel was opposed by both corporations, the ostensible argument being that the offer was made from motives unfriendly to Massachusetts interests. It is understood that the Fitchburg Railroad is not especially averse to consolidation now. The stock of the Vermont and Massachusetts Company has been forced pretty low by the efforts of rival interests against consolidation are fast losing their force. In hastening the consideration of this question, the conjoint action of the Troy & Boston Line are obviously serving the interests of that line. Whether the State should co-operate with them or not, depends upon so many other considerations of great magnitude, that we presume the legislature will not be disposed to enter hastily. If a bill authorizing consolidation is received this winter, it is not improbable that the Cheshire Railroad will be a third party to it; the managers are understood to have had such a movement under consideration.

This is the present status of the question. In the meantime, there are three plans already brought forward looking toward the ultimate disposition of the tunnel. The Railroad Commissioners of the State favor the buying up of the whole line to Troy. The prominent railroad men interested, of course, oppose this, and desire to get possession of the tunnel, and bring the whole line under the management of a single corporation; while the Governor holds that the State should become a stockholder in the united corporation to the amount of the value of the tunnel when done. Of the three plans, the last seems the most judicious in its general aspects. Any plan that keeps the control of such a great public work in the hands of the State will eventually inure to the benefit of the travelling and commercial public by protecting them from the exactions of a monopoly, toward which such a work constantly tends, and will also be of advantage to the State in yielding it a constant revenue.

MR. DARWIN AND FREE RELIGION.

Mr. Darwin, the great Natural Selectionist, has at last selected a creed, and, as a matter of purely local pride, it may be said that in his selection he has settled the matter by narrowing it down to Ohio creed; the creed of Mr. Abbott, of Toledo, who claims to have brought the truest science and the truest religion into harmony. The correspondence which has passed between the two gentlemen settles the fact that Mr. Abbott, of Toledo, believes Mr. Darwin's Natural Selection theories to be true science, and that Mr. Darwin believes Mr. Abbott's creed to be true religion. With Mr. Darwin's theories the world is tolerably familiar; but it can hardly be assumed that many people are yet acquainted with Mr. Abbott's creed, which would occupy two solid columns of nonpareil type in THE TRIBUNE. As Mr. Abbott is confident that Mr. Darwin's scientific theories represent the probable opinions of scientific men in the future, and that his own creed is the one which is destined finally to supercede all other creeds, it will be interesting to the reader to know what it is that interesting so much for what Mr. Abbott thinks, as for what Mr. Darwin believes. Mr. Abbott's creed is like the two grains of wheat which were hidden in the bushel of chaff. In the multiplicity of words and of self-evident truths, it not easy to find exactly what Mr. Abbott and his new disciple do believe; but, as near as we can arrive at the facts, they believe in Free Religion,—not a religion without money or without price,—but a Free Religion as opposed to Christianity; the one being declared to have its root in universal human nature, and the other in the universal God; the one having a devout reverence for God, the other having a devout reverence for nothing in particular. Mr. Abbott's Free Religion is a protest against any authority except that of morality, which is no authority at all, as authority must emanate from an author higher than ourselves, and from law, which Free Religion scouts, as it only emanates from our inward consciousness, the poorest of all law-makers. It implies emancipation from outward law, and voluntary obedience to inward law. Its faith rests only in man as a progressive being, and it draws its assurances of that progress from science, not from revelation. Its ideal end is the perfection or complete development of man, the individual serving the race and the race the individual; but the perfection is of the earth, earthy, and does not, except in a very blind way, contemplate any perfection beyond the limits of worldly existence, or any progress after death, the analogies for which, even setting aside revelation, which Mr. Abbott will not admit, abound in that very nature whom he so ardently follows, and with whom Mr. Darwin is so intimate. The law of Free Religion is the still small voice of the private soul, as opposed to the universal testimony of history that it is only the blind leading the blind over again. The effects of Free Religion are to make liberty supreme in all forms of government, science supreme in all forms of belief, morality supreme in all forms of conduct, benevolence supreme in all forms of social relations. It brings the Church, which embodies Christianity, to the level of all other institutions, the Bible to the level of all other books, Christ to the level of all other men, and elevates the individual, by means of his individual consciousness above them all, to progress to his theoretical perfection.

In the sense in which Free Religion is generally understood, Mr. Abbott's Free Religion is no religion at all, but rather a theory or set of theories, based on a combination of morality and science; or, more strictly speaking, morality governed by science. It is not without a certain degree of fascination, and, if realized within the lifetime of any one of us, would be recognized as Utopian to a degree which would have satisfied even Sir Thomas More himself. It is not difficult to see why Mr. Darwin has accepted Mr. Abbott's creed, for Mr. Abbott's process of reasoning on religion is virtually the same as that of Mr. Darwin on science. Mr. Darwin emphasizes the unity in science, and Mr. Abbott emphasizes not only the unity in science, but also the unity in mankind and in person, and the unity of the unities themselves. Mr. Abbott's Free Religion has convinced him that the origin of man is one in virtue of a common descent from inferior types of being, which is only Mr. Darwin's theory over again, and that the nature and destiny of the human race are one; but the only result which Mr. Abbott can achieve for man by the application of his unity is a universal brotherhood based on faith in human nature and love for all human beings. He gives us a man whose only guide is reason, and whose only goal is knowledge; whose action shall be governed by his conscience only up to the limit of moral ideas; whose character shall be irradiated with love for man; whose imagination shall never soar beyond the confines of the beautiful things of this earth; and whose passions shall be subservient only to the reason, weakest of all weak masters. Beyond this, nothing. There is no hereafter in Mr. Abbott's religious scheme, any more than there is in Mr. Darwin's scientific scheme; and if, in accepting Free Religion, Mr. Darwin means to have it understood that this is the result of his theory of selection as applied to religion, he will raise a storm about his ears fiercer than anything he has yet experienced.

The following paragraph has been thrown out upon the waves of journalism, with the evident purpose of sinking it to appear that Senator Schurz procured the appointment of Mr. Edmund Jussen to the office of Collector of Internal Revenue in this city:

In a niche in the Custom House that adorned the city of Chicago before the advent of Mrs. O'Leary's cow, was a Collector of Internal Revenue whose name will be unfortunate. City were collected. It was a goodly office, with fair and permanent emolument and vast salary and unknown opportunities within.

Our Senatorial friend started in the procession of beggars to the Capital, and obtained the boon of the filling of the city. By bring the brother-in-law and the office secured. This, reckoned with interest, would yield to the State a bout ten millions of dollars, or half what the enterprise

SPRINGFIELD.

A Bill to Establish and Maintain a System of Free Schools.

Synopsis of its Provisions.

From Our Special Correspondent.

SPRINGFIELD, Ill., Jan. 5.

There is now pending in the Senate a bill to establish and maintain a system of free schools in this State. It is intended to be a substitute for the present law on that subject, which requires a few alterations to make it conform to the present Constitution, and it will probably receive the attention of the Senate some time during the present year. On the whole, it is not a bad bill, and its fifty pages are marred by fewer faults than one would expect to find. But it is too long, and seems to go rather too much into details. It contains many schedules and forms, and is, to that extent, an attempt to shift responsibility from the Superintendent of Public Instruction, and put it on the Legislature.

In all this there is no very great harm; but, when it comes to dealing with taxation, there is shown that peculiar ignorance which crops out in every bill relating to that question. The provisions on that subject are as follows:

COMMON SCHOOL FUNDS.

SEC. 68. The Common School Fund of this State shall consist of such sums as will be produced by the annual levy and assessment of 3 mills upon each dollar's valuation of all the taxable property in the State; and there is hereby levied and assessed, annually, in addition to the revenue for State purposes, the said 3 mills upon each dollar's valuation of all the taxable property in the State, to be collected, and paid over the amount due from the State, according to a statement and settlement of the account between the State and that Fund, under the provisions of an act entitled "An act to provide for the distribution and application of the interest on the School, College, and Seminary Fund," approved on the 7th of February, 1855, and of all funds which have been or may hereafter be received by the State from the United States for the use and support of common schools; and also of the money added to the Common School Fund, which was paid over to the State of Illinois under an act of Congress providing for the distribution of the surplus revenue of the United States, and which remained in bank subject to the orders of the State, and of the interest added to the School Fund under an act requiring the 5 per cent fund to be invested in bonds, etc.

SEC. 69. On the first Monday in January, in each and every year next after each and every assessment, the Auditor of Public Accounts shall ascertain the number of children in each county in the State, entitled to the benefits of the School, College, and Seminary Fund, and shall apportion upon each county its proportion of said interest on the School, College, and Seminary Fund, in proportion to the number of children in each county as aforesaid, and issue his warrant to the Superintendent of Schools of each county upon the Collector thereof, and to the Superintendent to the Collector of his county, said Collector or Treasurer shall pay over to the County Superintendent of Schools of his county, the amount of the first specie funds which may be collected by him, and not otherwise appropriated by law, including the taxes levied for the payment of bonds. The warrants issued by the Auditor of Public Accounts for the School Fund tax, and for the interest of the School, College, and Seminary Funds, shall be received by the State Treasurer in payment of amounts due to the State from County Collectors; and the presentation by the State Treasurer of said warrants to the Auditor, shall be a credit to the State Treasurer on the School Fund for the amount of the School Fund tax-warrants, and on the Revenue Fund for the interest of the School, College, and Seminary Fund. The shoemaker who shod the original Rogor, the tailor who clothed him, the barber who cut his hair, have all testified in behalf of the plaintiff. The long-lost brother who was identified by the strawberry mark on his left arm is far eclipsed in this case, for about every square inch of the aforesaid body has been examined and reported on. The original Roger seems to have been a mass of scars, and this one certainly rivals him. If the defence are obliged to testify, it is said that they will claim that the plaintiff is the illegitimate son of Roger Tichborne's father by Mrs. Orton, born before that person became Mrs. Orton, but adopted by her husband, and brought up by him as his own child. Orton, it is said, knew the secret of his birth was imparted to him by his mother is not known, but it is assumed that it was before he left home to enter upon the adventurous, wild, and criminal life which he has since pursued. He went to South America, and there it is assumed that he fell in with and made the acquaintance of his half-brother Roger, who was then on the point of then travelling through Chile. It will be contended that an intimacy then and there sprang up between the two men; that Arthur probably confided to Roger the secret of his parentage; and that Roger in return told to his half-brother the simple story of his life, so far as it had then progressed. It will also be claimed that Arthur possessed the secret of some articles belonging to Roger, a diary or two, some clothes, and other articles, and that they then separated. Roger embarked on the Bella and was drowned at sea. Arthur, ignorant of this, remained in South America, then went to Australia and became a cattle-drover, a butcher, a beachcomber, and a robber. Finally, one of the advertisements of the Dowager Tichborne appeared, constantly publishing in the papers for her lost son was seen by him, and he then began to conceive the plan of the imposture which he has since carried out.

However the case may result, it seems possible, if not probable, from the enormous costs of the suit that, if the plaintiff succeeds, it will be only to the empty honor of a name, inasmuch as the estate will be absorbed by the lawyers.

The Rochester outbreak is a curious illustration of the growing dissatisfaction with the slow processes of the law, and the growing popularity, in high and low places, of the idea of taking the law into one's own hands. A negro commits a brutal outrage. His people arrested and imprisoned. Straightway a mob, among whom there seem to have been no relatives or intimate friends of the injured family, gather to attack the jail. The police prove powerless to repress the riot and the military are called out. The usual result of assembling our "citizen-soldiery" follows. Muskets are thrown, one or two men in the ranks are slightly hurt, and forthwith, with or without command, the whole force fires into the crowd. The guilty, of course, escape unhurt, and the death or wounding of a few innocent persons increases the mob-fury. The military are kept on guard all night. The excitement is renewed next morning. Some one raises a flag with the inscription, "Avenge your slaughtered brothers." A well-meaning but rather indiscreet official conceives it to be his duty to remove the obnoxious banner, and does so at the imminent peril of his life. The soldiers are actively employed; they leave the ranks, and the riot is practically under control. But the despatches report that the night passed quietly, but that a renewal of the riot was momentarily expected. If it is renewed, one of two things ought to be done: Either the negro should be at once given up to Judge Lynch, or the howitzers which have been planted and the muskets of the militia should be used in the event of any trace of tumultuous and unlawful assemblage.

It seems that the Government, in its present fit of economy, has refused or neglected to furnish the United States officials in Utah with the money requisite to carry on their attacks on the manufactured of Salt Lake City. The funds are completely exhausted, and United States District Attorney Baskin, in a letter to Senator Trumbull, says: "I see no other course for the Government but to provide money immediately for the prosecution of the great crimes now charged, or order all dismissed." The fascination of hostilities may have been ill-judged or ill-timed, but, after war has been declared and entered upon, it is poor policy to withheld its sinews. Then, too, after prominent Mormons have been indicted for infamous offences, and the fact published far and wide throughout the country, it is but simple justice to them to give them a trial,—provided it be a fair one.

One of our Western philosophers is busily at work petitioning Congress to give him batteries and ammunition enough to bombard the heavens and compel the clouds to give down rain. We object to the whole thing, to-to. First, because the theory is not sound at all: it was long ago known that, when the atmosphere is heavily saturated with moisture and perfectly still, any unusual agitation or concussion is liable to shake the rain out of it. Under any other circumstances, our Chicago philosopher might bombard away until doomsday, with no certainty of producing any other effect than a deafening noise. But at present we don't want the noise, and we are still more certain that we don't want the rain.

The triumphant announcement from Great Britain, that the problem of using steam as a motive power on common roads had at last resolved itself, turns out, in the light of subsequent events, to have been rather premature. One great advantage claimed for the Glasgow "steam road-wagon" was, that it could by no possibility explode; but on the 26th ult., while an exhibition of its powers was in progress, it developed a new and unlooked-for trait, and by its explosion killed outright five and mortally wounded seven of the lookers-on.

It is pleasant to note, as an evidence of general progress, that division of labor has not only been carried as far as possible in our funerals, but also in our marriages. In the old days people were bound together by the sides of one divine, then two or more were called into requisition; and now the New Orleans *Republican* announces: "Married—At Christ's Church, by Rev. R. W. Micou, Miss Annie Micou and I. Trapp. Blessing and prayer by Rev. C. Fair. Paul F. Camplain, organist."

THE LAW COURTS.

Johnny Summerfield and His Little Office.

Letter from S. M. Moore & Co. Concerning an Insurance Case.

Circuit Court.

JOHNNY SUMMERFIELD AND HIS OFFICE.

Judge Rodgers, yesterday, rendered his opinion and judgment in the proceeding by Asbon *corpus*, based upon the denial of the right of John Summerfield to act as a Justice of the Peace. He sustained the *quowarrano*, holding that under it the Sheriff evidently retained the relator, Amanda B. Thompson, in custody. She was, therefore, remanded to the County Jail. The Court did not, however, decide the question upon which the opinion was sought, that question being whether Summerfield acted legally as a Justice of the Peace, or is in fact, by law, such an officer. The opinion is as follows:

It appears by the petition for the writ of habeas corpus, filed by Amanda B. Thompson, the return of the Sheriff to said writ, and the copy of the *mittimus* under which she was committed, that said petitioner was examined before John Summerfield, *acting* as Police Magistrate, upon a charge of larceny; that she was found guilty of the charge, and held to answer in the Criminal Court, and, failing to give bail, was committed to the custody of the Sheriff, by whom she is detained in jail. Her discharge is sought upon the alleged ground that Summerfield, at the time he examined the charge, and issued the *mittimus*, was not a Justice of the Peace of Cook County. It was agreed, upon the hearing, that Summerfield was regularly elected and commissioned Police Magistrate of the city of Chicago some years ago; that he was not appointed a Justice of the Peace by the Governor, under the Constitution; and that at the general election last autumn, held on the first Tuesday in November, 1871, he was elected Justice of the Peace of Chicago, took the oath of office, and gave bonds as such; but, that the Governor of this State has failed to issue a commission to him as such Police Magistrate, and that the Common Council of the city has designated no person to act as Police Magistrate for the South Division of the city. It also appeared that he was acting in that capacity at the time he examined the petitioner under which the petitioner was held, although he signs it "J. Summerfield, Justice of the Peace."

The question as to his right to the office, whether he held an office *de jure* was the only one discussed by the learned gentlemen appearing for and against the petitioner, and seems to be the only one upon which a decision by the Court was desired. But, in the view of the case taken by me, I do not feel that it is either necessary or wise that I should undertake to decide that question. It is not necessary for the disposition of the case, and in a matter of such grave public importance, I would not be justified in the office. I do not feel inclined to investigate it fully, or declare my opinion upon it, except in a case in which the determination of which it can be finally and fully determined. Summerfield is not by law a Police Justice or Police Magistrate or Justice of the Peace. This proceeding is not one of them.

Mr. Summerfield, as it appears, by the agreed statement of facts, was, down to the election held in November last, a Police Magistrate of this city. Only a few days before the election, the Legislature voted for and declared elected for another term; executed bonds as such; took the oath of office, and was subsequently duly elected and commissioned Justice of the Peace for the South Division of the city, and duly qualified as such officer.

It has often been held by the courts of last resort, in several of the States, and, expressly so by the Supreme Court of this State, that where a person exercises the duties of an office, performing those functions by color of office, he is an officer de facto, and has a right to the office and the emoluments collaterally. See Town of Lewiston *v.* Proctor, 21 Ills., 854; also The People, ex rel. *v.* Collins, 3 Ills., 343, in which it was decided that although Judge Bangs was not Judge of the Circuit Court *de jure*, his election not being set aside by the Constitution, and he having been sworn in and received the fees of office, and acting as he did under that color his acts were valid. The Court, in that case, decided that he did not hold the office of Judge *de jure*, and ousted him. This case a proceeding to determine who was really and legally entitled to the office, it is clear that the same question so far as John Summerfield is concerned, could not be raised in this case.

In MEYER *v.* PEASE, 14 Ills., 485, the Supreme Court decided that one holding office under color of right, but who did not hold it *de jure*, was a de facto officer, and not a mere intruder, and that he was not a Justice of the Peace *de jure*. Mr. Justice Lyon, in referring to this MEYER case, says: "In that case, the Court held that he was not a Justice of the Peace *de jure*. Hunt says the Court, in referring to this MEYER case, that he was not a Justice of the peace, "and he assumed to act under his commission as a Justice of the Peace, it by no means follows that he was not a Justice of the Peace *de facto*, and entitled to the fees of the office."

These authorities are conclusive of the question presented here. I am bound by them, and what they decide I must consider as the law. That Mr. Summerfield is the officer, I am decidedly of opinion that this act, under color of office, in compelling the petitioner, was not void.

SEPARATE MAINTENANCE.

A bill was filed by Eliza J. French, alleging that she was married to Horace French, a resident of her husband, Horace French, to live apart from him. She seeks to have him compelled to provide for her and their children, and that the property which stands in the name of her husband, Horace French, be held to answer her demands. The defendant is represented to be worth from fifty to sixty thousand dollars.

Judgment was rendered in favor of Martin W. Gay, administrator, against Francis E. Huckley, for $5,500.

—Also in favor of James McKindley & Co. against William C. Bake, for $7,194.37.

—Also in favor of Thomas Mulvey & Co. against William C. Bake, for $7,194.37.

ADMINISTRATORS.

Letters of administration were commenced by Clarence Blake et al. *vs.* Minor T. Ames and John M. Ames, et al., $5,000.

—Adam Bater *vs.* George Schmidt and George A. Brandt, $5,000.

—Agnes Svenson *vs.* Anders Jacobsen; demand for alleged breach of promise of marriage, $5,000.

County Court.

WILL PROBATED.

The will of the late John Mahegan was proved, and letters testamentary issued to Thomas Foley under bond of $60,000.

ADMINISTRATORS, ETC.

Franklin Hathaway was appointed to administer upon the estate of Alden G. Wilder, deceased, under bond of $60,000. He was also appointed guardian of the minor heirs under the bond.

Peter Friedman was appointed administrator of the estate of Louis Friedman, under bond of $10,000.

THE PLANET URANUS.

Where to Look for Him—Conditions of Existence on His Surface.

It is now nearly 91 years since the elder Herschel pointed the telescope upon a bright object in the constellation Gemini, which he announced to be a new comet, but was afterward discovered to be a staid member of the solar family, having a nearly circular orbit, of the vast diameter of 3,000,000,000 miles, and a period of revolution of 84 years. Till within a very few years, this planet, Uranus, was thought to be the outermost of all the planetary host. Though Uranus is more than 1,800 miles in diameter, its apparent size is so small that the largest telescope in the world, by which it is inclined in jail. Her discharge is sought upon the alleged ground that Summerfield, at the time he examined the charge, and issued the *mittimus*, was not a Justice of the Peace of Cook County. It was agreed, upon the hearing, that Summerfield was regularly elected and commissioned Police Magistrate of the city of Chicago some years ago; that he was not appointed a Justice of the Peace by the Governor, under the Constitution; and that at the general election last autumn, held on the first Tuesday in November, 1871, he was elected Justice of the Peace of the South Division of the city, took the oath of office, and gave bonds as such; but, that the Governor of this State has failed to issue a commission to him as such Police Magistrate, and that the Common Council of the city has designated no person to act as Police Magistrate for the South Division of the city. It also appeared that he was acting in that capacity at the time he examined the petitioner under which the petitioner was held, although he signs it "J. Summerfield, Justice of the Peace."

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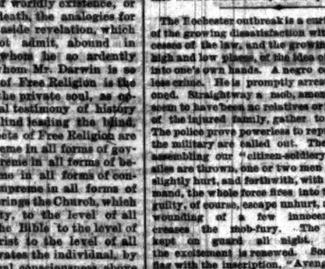

The accompanying diagram shows the relative positions of these objects; but, to gain a correct idea of the direction, the paper must be so held that the column-rule will point over the left shoulder to the bright star. The large star on the right represents the position of Jupiter; the three specks above him, a little to the left, are small stars, and must not be mistaken for his moons; the lowest of the three is the largest, and known as Mu Cancri. The two large stars close to the left hand margin are the Aselli, known as Gamma and Delta Cancri. The two small stars immediately below, are the two brightest in the Beehive; they are numbered as 39 and 40 in Cancer, and are of the sixth magnitude. To the right of them is Eta

COUNTY COMMISSIONERS.

Duties of Persons Employed About the Poor House.

Attempt to Fix Salaries--Janitors and Watchmen.

At the regular adjournment, the Board of County Commissioners met yesterday afternoon, in the County Clerk's office, President Julius White in the chair. There were present the following members of the Board: Ashton, Crawford, Harrison, Herting, Jones, Lonergan, Pahlman, Rose, Sharpe, Stearns, and White.

APPLICATION FOR A RESIDENCE.

A communication from Charles Weiland was read, offering his services as Warden of the Poor-House or Hospital, and laid over.

STATE'S ATTORNEY'S BILL.

A communication from Charles H. Reed, State's Attorney, filing a bill of $470 for conviction fees, was referred to the Committee on Jail and Jail Repairs.

REPORTS FROM THE BOARDS.

The Committee on Public Buildings reported in favor of the following bills:

Bill of Ira Y. Munn, in which the county officers of the Court House, which could be rented for all expense.

Commissioner Stearns was opposed to any rent of the Court House. Mr. Carter had informed him that a temporary addition could be made to the new city building by May 15. The county officers could afford to double up for a few weeks.

Commissioner Crawford said that there was no room for doubling up. Every room was occupied. The people of the city were waiting for the completion of the building now occupied by officers for a High School.

COUNTY EMPLOYEES.

The committee, of three, to whom was referred the resolution of Commissioner Ashton in relation to the number of employees, and the duties of the Physician of the Poor House and Hospital, reported that the Physician of the Poor House was required to visit the Hospital every day; that the number employed about the Poor House was sufficient; that no more employees were necessary; that the Physician of the Hospital was required to visit the Poor House every day; that the number employed about the Hospital was sufficient

LONDON.

The National Gallery Enlarged.

The Reading-Room—Lady Visitors—The King's and Greville Libraries.

Literary Success—A Few Autographs—The Natural History Collection.

From Our Special Correspondent.

LONDON, Dec. 12.

I turn aside for a while from the painful thoughts which the condition of the Queen and her family awaken in a sympathetic mind, to the solace of books. I have been rambling over the British Museum Library, and have brought back with me a new volume, published but yesterday, and written by a veteran assistant in the institution. I hope some copies of this book—"Memories of the British Museum by Robert Cowtan," will find their way to Chicago. They may make the mouth water by the pictures they give of the literary splendors and rarities in Great Russell street; but there are useful hints and suggestions in them, too.

It is computed that the Museum Library contains more than one million books. The Vatican Library, at Rome, has, perhaps, 100,000, and the Bodleian, at Oxford, 240,000. The authorities have the power, as the Museum, now entitled to free copies, are those of the Universities of Oxford and Cambridge, Trinity College, Dublin, and that of the Advocates, at Edinburgh. This is a heavy tax, and an unfair one. The compulsory delivery should be restricted to the Museum. The other libraries cannot be termed public institutions; they are richly endowed and could well afford to encourage literature by buying their books. An architectural work, lately deposited at the museum under the copyright act, cost the author £250. Lord Kingsbury's Antiquities of Mexico, in nine volumes imperial folio, was published at £320. Mr. Gould's splendid series of illustrated works, including the Birds of Europe, of Australia, of Asia, and others, cost the author £3,000. Mr. Halliwell's edition of Shakespeare, in sixteen volumes, at £84; Mr. Owen Jones' Alhambra at £36, and his Grammar of Ornament at £30, are examples very heavily upon the author to have to give away four copies of his like these. When the book reaches the Museum, a stamp is impressed upon the back of the title-page, and upon all the plates or maps that may be in it; and the date when it was acquired is put upon the last page. The donations have a yellow stamp; the purchased, red; and those delivered under the copyright act, blue. Magnificent, and bound up with their wrappers on. The idea of printing the catalogue entire has been abandoned, inasmuch as there are to the collection some 3,000 manuscripts, 20,000 general publications and broadsides, which would swell a catalogue to a magnitude that, for practical purposes, would be useless. The number of American books in the Museum is said to be greater than in any library of the United States. A separate catalogue of these books has been prepared by Mr. Trübner. Ptolemy Philadelphus, the gentleman who has had the largest share in procuring them. Since 1848, this gentleman has devoted most of his time, in London, to collecting all the rare old American books in the British Museum, and also in enriching many libraries, both public and private, in the United States by his selections from the foreign markets.

THE READING-ROOM—LADY VISITORS.

In the old reading-room Mr. Thomas Carlyle always had a headache; and one writer, Mr. Dingwall Fordyce, mentions among the sources of annoyance, that "there is a flea generated in that room that is larger than any to be found elsewhere, except in the receiving rooms of lunatic asylums." The flea has disappeared, and Mr. Carlyle (who has not been to the place for some years) would have no such complaint to make of the new reading-room, the ventilation of which is complete, and where there is ample space allotted for every reader, and where the readers glide about on their temperature as silently as shadows. This noiselessness has a most strange, spectral effect. Mr. Carlyle, when a visitor to the reading-room twenty years ago, was in need of such a place of quiet for the pursuit of literary facts. He used to chat freely with the late Mr. Watts, who compliained to his friends, however, that the great philosopher would have all the talk to himself. Mrs. McCauley was the first and only lady reader in the course of the first ten years after the reading room was opened. The new room has a few ladies' literary ladies, who not only fill the tables specially appropriated to their use, but are to be found scattered over the entire room. Two long tables have been placed in the exact apart for ladies, with hassocks for their feet, and a cloak room with female attendance. It is remarked, nevertheless, that a considerable proportion of the fair ones prefer to sit at the unreserved places.

THE "KING'S LIBRARY" AND THE GREVILLE LIBRARY.

The inscriptions on the doors at either end of the magnificent room in which the King's Library is placed—one in Latin, the other in English—tell that "This Royal Collection was begun by King George III., was given to the British nation by His Most Gracious Majesty, George IV., in the third year, A.D. MDCCCXXIII." This is not a strictly true statement. George IV., finding to sell them to the Emperor of Russia, but was dissuaded from doing so by Lord Sidmouth, and was persuaded by the Ministers. This library embraces almost every species of human knowledge—the books numbering about 65,000, exclusive of some 8,000 pamphlets. The next accession of importance to the British Museum Library was by bequeathed to it by the Right Hon. Thomas Greville. "A great part of the library," he said in his will, "has been purchased out of the profits of a sinecure office given me by the public, and I feel it to be a debt and a duty that should acknowledge its origination in giving [illegible] library, so acquired, to the British Museum for the use of the public. Mr. Greville delighted in his library, and was never tired of making bibliographical visits to it. I illustrate more fully some of its precious treasures. He would take his cambric handkerchief and wipe the choice and beautiful bindings with an inner gentleness, as if it were the act of drying the tear from a maiden's cheek. The little notes attached to all the more rare volumes were carefully written by his own hand. The Greville library consists of 20,240 volumes, forming about 16,000 works, which cost upward of £25,000, and would realize in the market a much larger sum. It is interesting to see the size of the annuities collection cost, more than £36,000; so that the money value of the presentation amounted to [illegible] per cent.

LITERARY "SUCCESSES."

You may be surprised to know that there are no less than 128 various editions, in our own language, of "The Pilgrim's Progress" in the Museum Library as well as twenty-nine copies of the work in other languages, including Arabic, Bengalee, Danish, Dutch, French, Gaelic, German, Manx, the peasant dialect of Norway, Swedish, Welsh and Russian. The Museum Library contains seventy-two editions in English of "Paradise Lost," while there are but forty-two editions in other languages. Of Bunyan's "Holy War" [illegible] Mr. Halliwell's edition of Shakespeare, in sixteen volumes, at £84; Mr. Owen Jones' Alhambra at £36, and his Grammar of Ornament at £30, are examples very heavily upon the author to have to give away four copies of his like these. When the book reaches the Museum, a stamp is impressed upon the back of the title-page, and upon all the plates or maps that may be in it; and the date when it was acquired is put upon the last page. The donations have a yellow stamp; the purchased, red; and those delivered under the copyright act, blue. Magnificent, and bound up with their wrappers on. The idea of printing the catalogue entire has been abandoned, inasmuch as there are to the collection some 3,000 manuscripts, 20,000 general publications and broadsides, which would swell a catalogue to a magnitude that, for practical purposes, would be useless. The number of American books in the Museum is said to be greater than in any library of the United States. A separate catalogue of these books has been prepared by Mr. Trübner. Ptolemy Philadelphus, the gentleman who has had the largest share in procuring them. Since 1848, this gentleman has devoted most of his time, in London, to collecting all the rare old American books in the British Museum, and also in enriching many libraries, both public and private, in the United States by his selections from the foreign markets.

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SAD CALAMITY AT DETROIT.

The Store of P. Stearns Burned—Four Lives Lost in the Flames.

From the Detroit Free Press, Dec. 29.

About 2 o'clock Saturday afternoon, a young man, named Stewart, employed in the laboratory and wholesale drug store of Frederick Stearns, No. 89 Woodward avenue, was instructed to carry a can of benzoline, containing twelve bottles of rhigolene, a volatile fluid used by dentists, and which quickly explodes when brought into contact with the flame. In descending the stairs the young man made a misstep, it is supposed, as he dropped the box on the stairs, and the can of benzoline was broken. At first the fluid only set fire to the basement floor, but in a few seconds it was on the second floor, and then the flames burst with great fury through the windows of the building, and communicated to the adjoining buildings. The fire department was promptly on hand, but the flames had gained such headway that the entire block was doomed to destruction. The fire department, however, succeeded in saving the adjoining buildings, and thus prevented the fire from spreading further. The flames were fanned by a strong wind, and that was in a northeasterly direction, and the fire department had to fight it almost from the start without intermission. And as there was no flame, a spark, that of a coal oil stove was the alarm, and the fire was under way before the alarm was given. Only a few days ago there was a fire in Florence, Fairmount warehouse, with pitch, pent into very much the same manner as the fire in this building, and the firemen were puzzled for a time how to divide their force. As the ladders were being taken from the trucks, a loud shriek was heard, and upward of a hundred men, women and children, rushed from the second story window. He could be seen fighting way through the dense flame which surrounded him, and it was seen that he was about to jump. Shouting to him to wait a moment, a pile of blankets was soon spread on a box in front of the building, and as he struck he fell on his right side. He made no sound as he was carried into the store, and the firemen soon went to their work systematically and successfully. Ladders were raised to the second-story windows, and the inmates, who were panic-stricken, made their appearance at the second-